# JUNE

at the

CALIFORNIA ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

JUNE MEETING

Date: Wednesday, June 29, 8:15 p.m.
Place: Morrison Auditorium
Speaker: Joseph Shaw
Subject: "ALASKA"

The wonders and the beauty of the 49th State offer a journey of excitement for armchair travellers in this evening of color and sound motion pictures. The film explores the strangeness of the Arctic tundra, the grandeur of the Brooks Range, and the magnificently scenic Alaska Range.

Included in this widely diversified cinematic experience are segments devoted to mountain sheep, caribou, Alaska brown bear and moose, as well as interesting pictures of the Eskimo encampment at Anaktuvuk Pass. Come and enjoy a pleasant summer "cooler". (Members and guests)

MORRISON PLANETARIUM

"MEN ON A MOUNTAIN (The Story of Lick Observatory)", continues through June 26 and all Academy members are urged to share this interesting closeup of California's great astronomy center. Performances are given daily, Wednesday through Sunday, at 3:30 and 8:30 p.m., with an extra matinee performance at 2:00 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays. (Adults, 75¢, Juniors, 40¢)

"MYSTERIES OF THE MOON" begins on June 29 and will continue through Labor Day. The summer schedule (July 2 - September 5) for performances at Morrison is as follows: Tuesday through Sunday at 2:15, 3:30 and 8:30 p.m. On Saturdays, Sundays, also July 4 and September 5, there will be an extra matinee performance at 1:00 p.m.

SPECIAL EXHIBIT

"DIAMONDS-INTERNATIONAL AWARDS COLLECTION" in Lovell White Hall of Man and Nature begins June 10 and will be on display through July 8.

This new exhibit consists of 48 glittering color photographs of contemporary diamond jewelry design, each presented individually in illuminated viewers. An international fashion show of jewels with San Francisco designers well-represented among the winners. Admission free.

# NEWS and NOTES . . . . . .

"Sumer is icumen in" and Peter Benson and Dustin Chivers, Supervisors of the Student Section, wish it known that they would welcome inquiries from young science-minded students who would be interested in the summer program which the Section has to offer. Young people between junior high school age and 21 will find this an unusual opportunity to pursue science projects of their own choice under proper supervision and join with others of like interests in field trips, meetings and various other rewarding activites which the section has to offer. Call either Mr. Benson or Mr. Chivers at BAyview 1-5100 for additional information, or write to the Academy for a descriptive brochure.

The Academy's Board of Trustees announces the election of the following persons as Fellows of the California Academy of Sciences: Dr. Rimo Baciagalupi, Dr. Ian McTaggart Cowan, Mr. Benjamin Draper, Dr. Bruce Halstead, Dr. Harold A. Harper, Dr. J. W. Hedgpeth, Dr. Colin Osborne Hutton, Dr. M. Maldonado-Koerdell, Dr. Faustino Miranda, Dr. Olaus J. Murie, Dr. Nello Pace, Dr. Ray F. Smith, Mr. Ernest Twisselmann and Dr. Victor Chandler Twitty.

An interesting innovation took place at the Academy on May 3 which proved to be singularly successful. New members listed in the April and May NEWSLETTERS were invited to an Open House which included a "behind the scenes" look at the Academy. The reaction by those who attended was so favorable that other receptions of this sort are anticipated in the future. Present plans also include an evening Open House during the latter part of August for all members of the Academy. Members will be informed of the details at a later date.

June is a travelling month for many members of the Academy Staff: Director Robert C. Miller, W. I. Follett and Lillian Dempster will attend the Annual Meeting of the Pacific Division, American Association for the Advancement of Science, being held in Eugene, Oregon from June 13 to 18; Dr. Robert T. Orr and Dr. Miller will travel to Tacoma, Washington for the Annual Meeting of the American Society of Mammalogists which will convene on June 19; and Dr. Alan E. Leviton and Robert Dempster will attend the 40th Annual Meeting of the American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists being held at the Chicago Natural History Museum from June 17 to 19.

On June 21st, members of the Academy's Television Department will enplane for Hawaii where they will videotape a program entitled "The New Microwave" which will be seen on "Science in Action" during the fall series. While in the 50th State, film sequences for another future "S in A" program devoted to volcanoes, tidal waves and earthquakes, will be photographed.

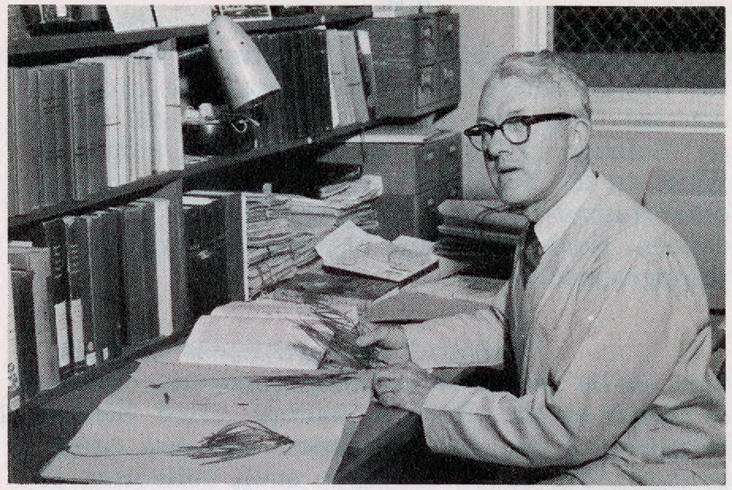
Several fine specimens of giant land snails (Achatina achatina Linnaeus) collected in Ghana by Mr. Eben A. Sackey, Chief Electrical Engineer of that African nation, are now being incorporated in the research shell collection of the Department of Geology.

Mr. O. Richard Norton, formerly of the Griffith Observatory in Los Angeles, has joined the staff of the Academy as Assistant Manager of Morrison Planetarium.

Distinguished visitors from all around the globe continue to come to the Academy. Alderman Frank G. Pursell, Vice President of the Taronga Zoological Park Trust of Sydney, Australia, paid an interested visit to Steinhart Aquarium and conferred with the staff; and from Iran, Dr. E. Nezam Ghaffery, Professor of Medicine at Teheran University, spent one week of research in the Academy's Department of Herpetology.

It was with a collective sign of joyous relief that the Departments of Entomology and Herpetology greeted the sea shipments of material which finally arrived at the Academy in late May, the tangible results of Dr. Edward S. Ross' Madagascar expedition. Actually, there seemed to be something for almost everyone: Approximately 50,000 insect specimens, representing species seldom found in any American insect collection; 50 specimens of reptiles and amphibians, most species of which were not previously in the Academy collections; 15 species of Madagascar marine shells for the research collection in the Department of Geology; 300,000-year-old stone axes and associated petrified bones which Dr. Ross took himself in the Olorgesailie lake deposits in the Great Rift Valley near Nairobi; and, as an interesting incongruity, burial shrouds from Madagascar, woven from the silk of tent caterpillar cocoons.

# Meet the Staff



JOHN THOMAS HOWELL'S genesis as a botanist took place during his boyhood on the open plains surrounding Merced, California. His lifelong devotion and continued interest in the flowering plants of his native state have resulted in hundreds of publications, the best known of which is "Marin Flora", an invaluable volume on the blossoming beauty of Marin County across the Golden Gate.

Mr. Howell received both his B.A. and M.A. degrees at the University of California at Berkeley, subsequently teaching for a short while at U.C.L.A. and then becoming Resident Botanist at the Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden. His long career with the California Academy of Sciences began with temporary employment in the summer of 1929. In 1930, he became Assistant Curator of Botany to Alice Eastwood. When Miss Eastwood retired in 1949, he became Curator of the Department, a position which he still holds.

His pleasure, his pastime, and his profession are inextricably intermingled. In those rare times when his duties at the Academy, his Presidency of the California Botanical Club, the publication of his Leaflets of Western Botany, or any one of his many other activities do not demand his attention, Mr. Howell may be found hiking through the ever-changing, ever-wondrous outdoors of California, always indulging in the role of happy botanist.

He is an active member of the Sierra Club, the Save-the-Redwoods League and the San Francisco Musical Association. He shares a bachelor existence in San Francisco with his brother Paul, one of five brothers.

## NEW MEMBERS OF THE ACADEMY

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THE CALIFORNIA ACADEMY OF SCIENCES
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